

# Department of Human Services

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



## Articles in Today's Clips Thursday, June 7, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
* Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	2-9
Visitation	10-13
Child Support	14
Health Care	15-16
Juvenile Justice	17-18
Adult Foster Care	19
Welfare	20
*State Budget	21
Local DHS Offices	22-23
News Release	24

\*Important story at this spot



## Foster kids testify on life with Isaac

One tells of joy, another of abuse

June 7, 2007

BY RUBY L. BAILEY

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The home of Charlsie Adams-Rogers was either a safe haven full of love or a dirty, unsupervised place where there was open drug use by teens, sometimes little food and where a 12-year-old girl with emotional problems was allowed to care for two small children.

Adams-Rogers, on trial on charges of involuntary manslaughter and child abuse in the death of 2-year-old Isaac Lethbridge, watched Wednesday as former foster children, one of her grandsons and a hired caregiver gave sometimes-conflicting accounts of what went on in her Detroit home in the days leading up to the boy's death on Aug. 16, 2006. The 60-year-old also faces a child abuse charge involving Isaac's 4-year-old sister.

Countering earlier testimony, Cherish Raymond, 17, told Wayne County Circuit Court jurors that she never saw Adams-Rogers' 12-year-old adopted daughter hit Isaac or his sister, that there was always food in the house and that teens never used drugs in the home.

"It was warm and loving," said Raymond, a foster child who stayed with Adams-Rogers on Aug. 13-16, 2006, while her foster parents were out of town. "Lots of kids, lots of laughter, lots of joy," she said.

But Hope Bryant, 16, a foster child who lived two years with Adams-Rogers, said she saw the 12-year-old hit Isaac with a remote control. When the boy cried, the girl "started laughing," Bryant said.

Raymond acknowledged that she slept within a few feet of Adams-Rogers' 17-year-old grandson Le Ron Rogers, and that the teens were up late without adult supervision. She slept in the den, while Rogers was in an adjacent room.

"She couldn't see me. I couldn't see her," testified Rogers, who denied that teens used drugs in the house.

In two hours of questioning, live-in caregiver Deborah Roberts testified that she was not told the 12-year-old girl had problems managing anger or with acting out sexually. Adams-Rogers has said the girl accidentally killed Isaac while throwing him onto a mattress.

Jurors also saw photographs of Isaac's bruises and burns and heard testimony from doctors. A doctor said a steam iron could have caused the burns.

Contact **RUBY L. BAILEY** at [rbaily@freepress.com](mailto:rbaily@freepress.com).

Copyright © 2007 Detroit Free Press Inc.

[Return to regular web page](#)



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

June 6, 2007

## Doctor testifies burns on baby could be from steam iron

**Karen Bouffard / The Detroit News**

**DETROIT** -- Severe burns on the body of 2-year-old Isaac Lethbridge may have come from a steam iron, according to testimony Wednesday in the trial of his former foster mother.

Children's Hospital's Dr. Shiny Kunjumman, who tried to revive the toddler on Aug. 16, 2006, said photos shown to the jury of vivid red marks on Isaac's chest, abdomen and pelvic area depicted second-degree burns.

Detroit foster mother Charlise Adams-Rogers is charged with involuntary manslaughter, a 15-year felony, for not protecting Isaac from abuse that prosecutors say caused Isaac's death. She also faces two counts of child abuse for her treatment of Isaac and his then 4-year-old sister.

"This particular burn has a pattern that could be consistent with an iron, however I have not made that conclusion," Kunjumman said, pointing to the region of Isaac's navel, where there were three large, circular red marks.

Some members of the jury appeared shaken by the gruesome photos of the curly haired boy, whose eyes were closed.

Isaac's biological parents Matthew and Jennifer Lethbridge also were in court this morning but Matthew Lethbridge left the gallery as the photos were shown.

Testimony will continue this afternoon.

[Return to regular web page](#)

[Return to regular web page](#)



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

June 6, 2007

## Warren woman found guilty of abusing adopted twin girls

Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

**MOUNT CLEMENS** -- A Macomb County jury found a 30-year-old Warren woman guilty of abusing her adopted twin 8-year-old girls. Tamika Williams was found guilty of two counts of torture and two counts of first-degree child abuse.

Prosecutors had alleged that she beat them with cable wire, shoes and exercise equipment; bathed them in bleach water; burned them with cigarettes; and dunked them in a toilet filled with urine since she adopted them in 2005 from a foster care home in Southfield.

The children are alleged to have suffered bruises, welts and burns until they were taken from the home in November 2006. They are now in foster care.

Williams could face up to life in prison when she is sentenced on July 12 by Macomb Circuit Judge Mary Chrzanowski.

You can reach Edward L. Cardenas at (586) 468-0529 or [ecardenas@detnews.com](mailto:ecardenas@detnews.com).

[Return to regular web page](#)

[Return to regular web page](#)

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

June 7, 2007

**Mount Clemens****Jury: Mom guilty of abuse**

Woman faces life for torturing 8-year-old adopted daughters for more than a year.

**Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News**

**MOUNT CLEMENS** -- A woman convicted Wednesday of torturing and abusing her 8-year-old adopted daughters sobbed as she was led from the courtroom by Sheriff's deputies.

A Macomb County jury took eight hours over two days to find Tamika Williams, 30, guilty of two counts of torture and two counts of first-degree child abuse.

She will be sentenced July 12 by Macomb Circuit Judge Mary Chrzanowski, who could send Williams to prison for the rest of her life.

"She had a large maternal attachment to these girls," William's attorney, Ronald Goldstein, said after the verdict. "She wants them back home with her."

Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Andary said the four-man, eight-woman jury took its time and used a dry-erase board to go over every element of the case, including the two girls' emotional testimony last week.

Williams was accused of abusing her daughters with a variety of items, including an exercise tool, cable cord and cigarettes. The girls testified against their adoptive mother in court, describing how they were beaten, hung from a door and dunked into a urine-filled toilet.

Williams did not injure the girls badly enough to result in hospitalization, Andary said, because Williams deliberately intended to keep the abuse secret from authorities.

"I never disbelieved the girls from the start. They came from a system that repeatedly failed them until they reached the justice system," Andary said. "The children have a right to be believed, and the verdict spoke the truth."

As the verdict was about to be revealed by the jury foreman, Williams bowed her head down into her hands, with fingers intertwined, and shook her head.

It wasn't until the handcuffs were placed on her wrists and she was led out of the courtroom that she showed emotion, sobbing on her way to the holding cell.

Goldstein, who had argued that the girls had fought with each other and injured themselves, was surprised by the verdict. He expected that if any guilty verdict was returned, it would be on the child-abuse charge.

Goldstein expects his client to appeal the decision.

Williams was alleged to have abused the girls from the time she adopted them in September 2005 until November 2006, when teachers at Warrendale Elementary School noticed the girls' injuries and reported them to authorities.

Williams is in the Macomb County Jail on \$1 million bond until sentencing.

*You can reach Edward L. Cardenas at (586) 468-0529 or [ecardenas@detnews.com](mailto:ecardenas@detnews.com).*

[Return to regular web page](#)

# ClickOnDetroit.com

## Woman Found Guilty Of Torturing Twins

POSTED: 1:19 pm EDT June 6, 2007

UPDATED: 1:44 pm EDT June 6, 2007

**MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.** -- A woman was found guilty Wednesday of torturing her adopted 8-year-old twin daughters and beating them with a baseball bat.

Tamika Williams faces up to life in prison after being convicted of two counts of torture and two counts of first-degree child abuse in Macomb County Circuit Court.

Prosecutors said the Warren woman beat the girls with cable wire, shoes and exercise equipment, bathed them in bleach water, burned them with cigarettes and dunked them in a toilet filled with urine.

"The abuse is unspeakable," Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith told the Macomb Daily. "There are bruises all over these girls' bodies."

Smith said " Williams threatened both little girls by telling them if they told what was going on, she would hunt them down at their new home and kill them."

She adopted them in 2005 from a foster care home.

The children are alleged to have suffered bruises, welts and burns until they were taken from the home in November after a teacher at their school noticed a burn on one of the girl's arm. The teacher contacted a school social worker, who notified county child welfare agency.

They are now in foster care.

Williams is to be sentenced July 12.

*Copyright 2007 by [ClickOnDetroit.com](http://www.clickondetroit.com). The Associated Press contributed to this report. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

[<<Back](#)

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

## Booster Seats Save Lives

Updated: June 6, 2007 09:07 AM EDT

Even though the Safe Kids Coalition of Greater Grand Rapids hands out and inspects booster seats, many families in West Michigan aren't making their children ride in them. Experts say that puts kids at risk.

Booster seats are encouraged for all kids between the ages of four and eight years old, although they are not required by law in Michigan, they are in 35 other states.

The Safe Kids Coalition estimates that only 8% of Michigan kids actually use them, putting most children at serious risk.

Booster seats are recommended for kids who weigh between 40 and 80 pounds and are under 4'9" tall. Infant and child care seats need to be replaced if they are more than seven years old or if they have been in an auto accident.

Safe Kids Coalition will be having a free car seat inspection from Noon-3:00pm on June 14th at the Cutlerville Fire Department. Stop by and make sure that your child's safety seat is installed properly.

For more information contact the Safe Kids Coalition of Greater Grand Rapids at 616-391-7233.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and WOODTV. All Rights Reserved.  
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Published June 2, 2007

## **To the point: You can't legislate good parenting**

A Lansing State Journal editorial

Last week, a reader who contacted columnist John Schneider expressed dismay over seeing three young children left unattended in an auto parked at a major retail store. Certainly, it's unwise and unsafe to leave young children or toddlers unattended in a vehicle; even more so in warmer weather.

State lawmakers, including state Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, plan to introduce a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to leave a child under age 6 alone in a vehicle.

That's a good intention, but it will hardly solve the problem. Being a parent is hard work, perhaps the hardest work there is. Parents make judgments all day long that affect their children's safety. And they do so for years.

When is a tot ready to be alone in the family room while you fill a bottle or sippy cup in the kitchen? To eat a cracker for the first time? To climb the stairs alone?

When is a youngster ready to reach for his own hot dog off a hot grill? To be dropped off at the movies with just her girlfriends? When is a teenager ready for that first date?

It never ends.

Clearly, the state cannot create enough laws to force parents to do their jobs responsibly.



It simply is not possible. There are too many situations, too many variables. It would be foolish to try.

And the fact is that even if passed, this law will not stop even a good parent from making a wrong judgment from time to time. Michigan already has laws that will punish a parent who is truly negligent in caring for a child. The state doesn't need this law.



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published June 7, 2007

## Mother loses right to visit surviving child

Loretta Moy's husband convicted of killing daughter

### What's next

- Loretta Moy's next parental rights hearing is scheduled for Aug. 29 before Ingham County Probate Judge Richard Garcia.

Kevin Grasha  
Lansing State Journal

A judge on Wednesday suspended visitation rights of a Lansing woman seeking to regain custody of her infant daughter, months after her husband was convicted of killing her 1-year-old daughter.

At a hearing before Ingham County Probate Judge Richard Garcia, a state foster care worker recommended that 21-year-old Loretta Moy's parental rights be terminated, citing questions about her emotional stability and her housing situation.

"Moy will continue to have difficulty responding to crisis situations and dealing with emotional issues and will not likely benefit from services any time soon," foster care worker Brian Johnson testified.

He said Moy had been receiving mental health counseling, but had made minimal progress.

Garcia scheduled the next hearing for Aug. 29. Moy's 6-month-old daughter is temporarily under the court's jurisdiction.

The Michigan Department of Human Services has placed the child in a foster home.

Moy, who had been allowed weekly, supervised visits, shook her head and cried after Garcia's ruling.

Steve Lee Moy, 39, is serving a mandatory life sentence for the death of his stepdaughter, Anishia.

He was convicted in February of first-degree felony murder and child abuse. He voluntarily gave up his parental rights to the girl - now 6 months old - he fathered with Loretta.

That child was removed from Loretta Moy's care days after she was born.

Testimony at Steve Moy's trial revealed Anishia had dozens of unexplained bruises on her body that were days or weeks old. She also had arm and wrist fractures that had healed.

Loretta Moy testified she bathed Anishia the night before she died, but said she saw no bruises or any injuries on her daughter's body.

Garcia cited that testimony as a reason for concern about the 6-month-old's safety.

He also said Moy's psychological profile indicated that "when frustrated, she responds with physical

aggression."

Moy's attorney, Joseph Curi, said in court it was premature to recommend terminating his client's parental rights.

Moy, he said, "is working hard to overcome a lot of barriers."

The infant girl's foster mother, Cheryl Reed, testified Wednesday that Moy's interaction with her daughter was "better than any I've experienced with any other parent."

Reed, who wrote a letter to the court supporting Moy, said Moy always showed up for visits early and was very involved in dealing with the girl's health problems.

A psychologist who examined Moy said it was unlikely she would consistently accept help from others, according to a report read by Garcia.

Moy is now living with a friend who has a history with Child Protective Services, Johnson testified. She had been previously living with other friends, but "they had sort of a falling out," Johnson said, adding that he didn't know the circumstances. He said the new living situation was "not suitable."

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or [kgrasha@lsj.com](mailto:kgrasha@lsj.com).

---

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)



## Grandparents' rights affirmed

Thursday, June 07, 2007

By Barton Deiters

The Grand Rapids Press

Julia Dawson's parents will continue to have the right to see their grandson despite objections by the boy's father, who is the prime suspect in the 2004 slaying, the state Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the criminal investigation has been moved from the Kent County prosecutor's office to the Michigan attorney general's office, a lawyer in the custody case said.

Kent County sheriff's Detective Sgt. Randy confirmed the case was turned over to the attorney general, saying the state can devote more staffing and resources to the investigation. He said local investigators have spent many hours discussing the case with state authorities.

As the criminal probe continued against him, husband Timothy Dawson has maintained his innocence

He also asked that his late wife's parents, Kevin and Tami Keenan, of Ada Township, be barred from seeing their 4-year-old grandson, Alex. That request was rejected once more in Wednesday's unanimous decision by the appeals court.

Timothy Dawson received the same answer more than 18 months ago from the Kent County Circuit Court.

His Grand Haven-based attorney, Judy Bregman, argued Julia Dawson had a strained relationship with her mother following her marriage only a few months after meeting Timothy Dawson through the Internet.

"I think it's insane," Bregman said. "I just don't understand how a child without any relationship with (the Keenans) could then be harmed by not having a relationship with them."

Florida attorney Scott Bassett, representing the Keenans in the appeal, said his clients did have a relationship with their daughter and grandson, and the court saw the value.

In the opinion written for the three-judge panel by Judge Christopher Murray, it stated the courts did more than simply say that "grandparenting is good," but affirmed that this was a way for Alex, who was only 2 when his 23-year-old mother died, to have a living connection with her via the Keenans.

Now, the Keenans will be able to fly to Texas, where Timothy Dawson lives in a small town northwest of San Antonio called Kerrville with his new fiancée, and see the boy four times a year.

"It's an incredible financial burden for them," said attorney Jayne Dykema, who represents the Keenans in Grand Rapids.

She said while they are glad to see the rights of the grandparents upheld in this case, there is no similar statute allowing Alex to see his 7-year-old half-brother, Kevin -- Julia Dawson's child from a previous relationship. The boys have not seen each other in two years. Kevin lives with the Keenans.

On Dec. 11, 2004, the Sparta Police Department received a call from Timothy Dawson saying his wife was missing from their home in Sparta.

Her disappearance led to a search by family and friends. Julia Dawson's nude body was found Jan. 3, 2005, near U.S. 131 in southern Montcalm County. Her death was ruled a homicide.

Since that time, detectives said they are slowly building the case, despite the assurance of an investigator in April 2005 that Timothy Dawson's arrest was "imminent."

Kieft, a sheriff's detective assigned to the case shortly after the death, said investigators from Kent County and the Sparta Police Department have looked at other potential suspects, but Timothy Dawson keeps rising to the top as their prime suspect.

"Everything we know keeps leading us right back to the front door of (the Dawson) house," Kieft said. "I'm confident that Tim Dawson is the only suspect."

The focus on Timothy Dawson is precisely the problem, according to his lawyer. He has denied killing his wife.

"As long as they look at him as the one and only suspect, they'll never find the real killer," Bregman said.

Like Kieft, the Keenans remain convinced their former son-in-law is responsible for denying their grandchildren a mother. Dykema, their attorney, likes knowing the attorney general's office is pursuing the case.

"It's definitely good to know it's not a matter of if, but a matter of when," Dykema said.

**Send e-mail to the author: [bdeiters@grpress.com](mailto:bdeiters@grpress.com)**

©2007 Grand Rapids Press

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **battlecreekenquirer.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Jun 7, 2007

## EDITORIAL

### Put nonpayment offenders to work rather than in jail

Nonpayment of child support is a serious issue, and it's important that people who do not meet their financial obligation to their children be held accountable.

But it has never made a lot of sense to us to put such offenders in jail - at taxpayers' expense.

So we support a proposal that the Calhoun County commissioners are expected to take up at their meeting tonight. The proposed Roads/Parks Work Pilot Program is aimed at those people who have not paid child support or other court-ordered payments, such as fines and costs. Instead of putting them in jail, people selected for the program would serve their sentences by working for the Calhoun County Road Commission in places like county parks. They would be supervised and perform work that would be of benefit to county residents.

The program would involve minimal cost - about \$10,000 for equipment such as safety identification vests, gloves, eye protection, radios and more. But it has the potential to save much more by not requiring the county to pay to incarcerate the offenders.

The proposal initially was on the county board's agenda last month but was pulled so that officials could provide more information about things such as liability and compensation.

We hope that those issues have been clarified and commissioners can give the go-ahead so that a pilot program can get under way. The sooner it can start, the sooner jail costs can be reduced.

But this is not just a cost-saving measure. People who fail to pay child support harm their families, but they do not pose a danger to the public. They are not violent offenders who need to be put behind bars.

By working for the road commission, they could help improve the county rather than consume county resources. That makes far more sense than locking them up where neither they, their families nor the public is well served. The proposed pilot program could reinforce the importance of a good work ethic in helping to support families.

We urge the county to move ahead with this idea that would provide appropriate punishment for offenders while at the same time providing numerous benefits for taxpayers.

---



## Hospitals to increase rates to cover losses

Thursday, June 07, 2007

By Pat Shellenbarger

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Spectrum Health and other area hospitals, faced with inadequate payments from Medicare and Medicaid, are planning rate increases to offset those losses.

Spectrum expects to lose nearly \$110 million caring for Medicare and Medicaid patients in the fiscal year beginning July 1, Chief Financial Officer Michael Freed said. As a result, Spectrum plans to raise rates it charges patients at Butterworth, Blodgett and DeVos Children's hospitals an average of 7.25 percent.

Next year's projected loss in Medicare and Medicaid comes despite a budget deal between Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Legislature that appears to avert a 6 percent cut in Medicaid payments to hospitals and doctors.

Even without that cut, those two government programs -- Medicare for senior citizens and Medicaid for low-income patients -- fall short of covering the cost of their medical care, Freed said.

If Medicare and Medicaid covered the actual cost of caring for patients, which most hospital officials agree is unlikely, the rate increase would be about 4 percent, Freed said. He called the Medicare/Medicaid shortfall and the resulting rate increase a "hidden tax" on other patients, their insurers and, ultimately, businesses.

Partly due to Spectrum's rate increase, Priority Health, an HMO owned by Spectrum, will raise the premium it charges members an average of 6.5 percent, Freed said.

"Nothing is free," he said. "Somebody is paying for it, and that somebody is us. ... By and large, the person stuck with the bar bill at the end of the night has been the employer."

Ten years ago, when Butterworth and Blodgett merged to form Spectrum Health, the two hospitals had no losses under Medicare and Medicaid, Freed said. But over the past seven years, Spectrum has lost more than \$366 million caring for patients covered by those two programs, not including the projected \$110 million loss in the coming year.

Legally, hospitals have to treat all patients, even the uninsured.

"It's not like those patients are going to go away," Freed said. "They're here."

Often, many Medicaid patients seek treatment in the hospital's emergency room, which costs more than a doctor's office or an urgent care center, he said.

Spectrum is not alone in struggling with shortfalls in government reimbursement although, because of different accounting procedures, it is difficult to compare the losses at different hospitals.

Metro Health lost \$7 million on Medicaid last fiscal year and expects to lose even more in the current fiscal year ending June 30, spokesman Jim Childress said.

How much Metro is losing on Medicare was not immediately known, he said.

"I'd say it's as big an issue for us as it is for any other hospital," Childress said. Metro has not yet set a rate

increase for next year, but Childress said, "We expect it to be no greater than 3 percent on average."

Saint Mary's Health Care expects to lose \$6.5 million caring for Medicare and Medicaid patients in the fiscal year beginning July 1, spokeswoman Micki Benz said, and plans to raise its rates an average of 5 percent.

Even with the rate increases, health care costs for Grand Rapids-area patients will remain lower than the national average for similar-sized cities, hospital officials said. Spectrum expects its rates will remain in the bottom quarter among comparable hospitals, Freed said.

Spectrum, already the largest employer in Grand Rapids, expects its work force will continue growing as a direct result of an increase in the number of patients. Spectrum's patient load increased 6 percent in the past year, Freed said. As a result, Butterworth, Blodgett and DeVos Children's Hospital expect to add the equivalent of 458 full-time employees in the coming year for a total of 8,691 full-time equivalent workers.

"We continue to see more patients," Freed said, "and it takes more people to care for them."

Employment for the entire Spectrum Health corporation, including three other West Michigan hospitals and Priority Health, is projected to increase by the equivalent of 514 full-time employees for a total full-time workforce of 11,361. The additional salary and benefits for those employees are expected to total \$64 million next fiscal year.

**Send e-mail to the author: [pshellenbarger@grpress.com](mailto:pshellenbarger@grpress.com)**

©2007 Grand Rapids Press

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.





## 13-year-old sex suspect to be tried as adult?

Thursday, June 07, 2007

By John Tunison

The Grand Rapids Press

WEST OLIVE -- The victim of a 13-year-old boy's alleged sexual attack Saturday still is recovering emotionally, relatives said.

"She is very upset," the 18-year-old victim's aunt said. "She cries all the time."

On Wednesday, the victim's family learned that if convicted, the young suspect could face adult punishment for the crime.

Ottawa County prosecutors have added four charges against Fathi Cullen, including attempted first-degree criminal sexual conduct. The severity of the charge allows authorities to prosecute him as an adult in Family Court, and would allow a judge to decide whether he should be sentenced under juvenile or adult rules.

Cullen was on juvenile probation for an April 2006 sexual assault in the Meijer store in Georgetown Township when he allegedly attacked the woman Saturday after following her into her trailer in the River Haven Village mobile home park in Grand Haven Township.

That same afternoon, as police were looking for him, he allegedly groped two girls, ages 12 and 14, near Hofma Park.

Cullen violated his probation earlier this year by looking at sexual Web sites on a school computer and inappropriately touching a staff member at Sheldon Pines School, a Holland-area school for severely emotionally impaired students.

His family also failed to update his address for a juvenile sex offender registry, another violation.

Ottawa County Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Kuiper said the possibility of an adult sentence offers more treatment and punishment options for Cullen than the juvenile system. She described Cullen as a "danger to society and our community."

"The remedies were not enough for this defendant earlier, so we needed more options," she said.

Cullen was charged Monday with home invasion and second-degree criminal sexual conduct in the River Haven Village attack and held in the juvenile detention center. Wednesday, prosecutors added the attempted assault charge and an interfering with electronic communications charge because Cullen allegedly broke the victim's cell phone as she tried to call police.

Prosecutors also filed charges of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and indecent exposure for the alleged assaults later in the day.

After Wednesday's hearing, Cullen hugged his father and mother, Sandra and Antonio Cullen, before a deputy escorted him back to detention.

The 18-year-old victim lives with her aunt, and her mother lives on another street in the same mobile home park. The victim's mother said her daughter had visited her Saturday morning, then went back to the aunt's home.

The victim was in the kitchen and heard the screen door shut, then turned around to see the boy.

"He just walked up to her and attacked her," the mother said. "He threw her on the floor, and he had his elbow in her throat."

He managed to rip off her shirt, but she fought back and hit him in the face, knocking off his glasses, her mother said. The boy then fled, leaving his glasses on the floor and a bicycle outside.

Police quickly determined his identity and that he lived in the same mobile home park.

The victim's aunt said the attack left her family terrified.

"We keep the doors locked because we are so afraid," she said.

Cullen's attorney, Leonard Mungo, of Detroit, said he will seek a psychiatric exam for Cullen to see whether he is competent to stand trial. Meanwhile, prosecutors want the ability to try him as an adult on several of the other charges and will ask a judge for approval June 20.

Cullen's juvenile criminal history in Ottawa County dates to October 2005, when he was accused of indecent exposure and later convicted.

**Send e-mail to the author: [jtunison@grpress.com](mailto:jtunison@grpress.com)**

©2007 Grand Rapids Press

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thetimesherald.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Jun 7, 2007  
Suspicious fire burns meth lab  
Blaze destroys garage at site of adult-home fire

By MOLLY MONTAG  
Times Herald

**KIMBALL TWP.** - Firefighters and arson investigators are investigating a second suspicious fire at the former Pine Hill Adult Foster Care, 6531 Lapeer Road.

Firefighters received a call about 6:45 a.m. Wednesday that a garage on the property was on fire. The garage is the same one in which police said they found a methamphetamine lab in early February.

Raymond Archie Laturno, 41, pleaded guilty Friday to operating the lab. Laturno was dating the owner of the foster-care home at the time he was arrested.

Kimball Township Assistant Fire Chief Ed Gratz said the cinderblock garage was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived Wednesday. The building was destroyed, he said.

No one was at the property at the time of the fire. The adult foster care has been closed since Feb. 9, when the state Department of Human Services ordered residents removed because of the meth lab in the garage. Police have been investigating an April 22 fire that destroyed the home itself.

Michigan State Police Sgt. Jim Bush spent most of Wednesday at the fire scene, digging through what is left of the garage.

"Basically, you're looking for anything and everything that will indicate where it originated and what caused it," he said.

Bush said he will give his findings to detectives with the St. Clair County Sheriff Department.

---

Published June 7, 2007

[ From Lansing State Journal ]

Thursday's letters to the editor

## **Welfare is needed**

There have been several letters to the editor criticizing people on welfare and suggesting the program be cut to help balance the state's budget. What is a young mother whose husband/boyfriend walks out and does not pay a dime of support supposed to do? What is a person who has lost their job due to downsizing and ran out of unemployment benefits supposed to do? I was on Aid to the Blind from 1971-1972 and it was embarrassing and degrading. In the 33 years since that, I've worked in human services. I've never met anyone who said they were happy to have to apply/receive public assistance. You don't know what poverty really is until you've been on assistance. Unless you have an extremely strong support system, it is difficult to get off the system and back into the work force.

Fran Donbrosky  
Lansing



## Senate panel votes to privatize foster care, juvenile justice

6/6/2007, 6:30 p.m. ET

**The Associated Press**

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A state Senate panel voted Wednesday to privatize more of Michigan's foster care, adoption and juvenile justice systems in next year's state budget.

Republicans said the proposal would save \$19 million in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, while Democrats worried the bill would relinquish too much public oversight of critical programs and cost more than 800 state employees their jobs.

The GOP-led Senate Appropriations Committee voted 11-7, mostly along party lines, to send the budget for the Department of Human Services to the full Senate. The prospects of privatization — supporters call it "non-profitization" — are in doubt because Democrats control the House and governor's office.

The bill would require that licensed, non-profit, nationally accredited agencies handle foster care and juvenile justice services. DHS would be responsible for oversight, licensure, monitoring and coordination of children's services.

"The use of community-based services is not a wild, untested theory," said Sen. Bill Hardiman, a Republican from Kentwood. "Michigan has used such services for many years."

But Democrats warned that 834 state employees would lose their jobs under the proposal. They also said the privatization of crucial services such as foster care and juvenile justice could endanger children.

Hardiman's office said private agencies are currently providing 40 percent of services to Michigan children. Under the bill, services provided by private agencies would increase to about 60 percent.

---

The DHS budget bill is Senate Bill 232.

---

On the Net:

Michigan Legislature: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Copyright 2007 Associated Press. All rights reserved.  
This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

## **Burton kids pitch in at school groundbreaking**

Wednesday, June 06, 2007

By Dave Murray

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Eighth-grader Eli Rodas will not get to attend the revamped Burton Elementary and Middle School when it reopens in a year, but says he thought about his little sister, Amber, when he donned a hard hat and helped with Tuesday's groundbreaking.

"She's in fourth grade now, so she's going to be here for a while," he said after tossing dirt with school administrators, architects and construction managers. "It's going to be nice."

The renovation is the eighth project using the

\$150 million voters approved in 2004, and, at \$28.9 million, it's the most expensive.

Except for a dramatic new entry, the building will not look much different on the outside, Principal Jesus Solis said. But the interior is to be gutted and replaced by spacious rooms using more natural light. A focal point will be a two-story media center illuminated by skylights.

Burton, 2133 Buchanan Ave. SW, has about 1,000 students and is one of the district's largest buildings at 190,000 square feet. It is known for doorways completed in the Byzantine style, with arches and colorful tiles.

"This school was built in 1926 and cost \$1 million," Solis said. "And back then, a million dollars was really a million dollars."

Some of the interior designs, such as tiled alcoves for water fountains, are to be preserved and placed in different places, Solis said.

**The school also will include a community health clinic and offices for the Family Independence Agency.**

David Smith, executive director for facilities planning, said the building should be the district's most ecologically friendly, even collecting rainwater to be used for flushing toilets.

Construction will begin as soon as students are released at the end of the week, and completion is expected in time for the 2008-09 school year. Meanwhile, students will go to school in the former Iroquois building.

**Send e-mail to the author: [dmurray@grpress.com](mailto:dmurray@grpress.com)**



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR

## News Release

**Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394**

---

### **Michigan Department of Human Services Summarily Suspends the Group Day Care Home License License Number DG820279297 of Camael Ivory**

---

**June 7, 2007**

The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Children and Adult Licensing issued an order of summary suspension and notice of intent to revoke the license of Wayne County group day care home provider Camael Ivory, 4563 Seebaldt, Detroit, Michigan. This action resulted from a recent investigation of a complaint of the child day care group home.

The June 5, 2007, complaint investigation found violations of the Child Care Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding caregiver and child care home family; ratio of caregiving staff to children; home maintenance and safety; exit and escape requirements; bedding and sleeping equipment; caregiver responsibilities; and children's records. OCAL took emergency action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of children.

Effective 6:00 p.m., June 6, 2007, the Summary Suspension Order prohibits Camael Ivory from operating a group day care home at 4563 Seebaldt, Detroit, Michigan or at any other address or location. Accordingly, she may not accept children for care after that date and time. The order also requires Ms. Ivory to inform all of the parents of children in her care that her license has been suspended and that she can no longer provide day care.

Ms. Ivory has held a license to operate a group day care home since April 28, 2006. The license was for twelve children.

Michigan law defines a group day care home as a private home in which more than six but not more than 12 minor children are given care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day, unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption. Group day care home includes a home that gives care to an unrelated minor child for more than four weeks during a calendar year.